

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-28 and 41-50 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 21, 22, and 25-28 are currently amended, Claims 29-40 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 41-50 are added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 2, lines 1-14 and 34-37, at page 3, lines 16-20, in Figures 1, 2, and 6, and in original Claims 3, 4, 21-25, and 27-29. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 30-40 were withdrawn; Claims 21, 22, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 21-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Marquette et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,183,379, hereinafter “Marquette”); and Claims 27 and 29 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claim 21 is hereby amended to include the allowable subject matter from Claim 27 and the intervening claims, and Claim 28 is hereby amended to include the allowable subject matter from Claim 29. Thus, it is respectfully requested that independent Claims 21 and 28, and all claims dependent thereon, be allowed.

The specification is hereby amended to add section headings and to correct a minor informality on page 1. Further, the claims are amended to correct some minor informalities and to be consistent with the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that the claims are hereby amended such that none of the claims recite both a range or feature and a

narrower statement of the same range or feature. Further, Claims 21 and 28 are amended to remove the “possibly” wording regarding the thin skin of aluminum and this feature is added in new Claims 42 and 45.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, each of the pending claims is believed to be definite and distinctly claim the invention. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who would be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to arrive at mutually acceptable language.

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as discussed above, independent Claims 21 and 28 are hereby amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection based on Marquette be withdrawn.

New Claims 41-50 are added by the present amendment. Support for new Claims 41-50 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 2, lines 1-14 and 34-37, at page 3, lines 16-20, in Figures 1, 2, and 6, and in Claims 3, 4, 21-25, and 27-29. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. As new Claims 41-50 depend on independent Claims 21 and 28, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 41-50 are part of the elected invention and should be fully examined on the merits. Further, as new Claims 41-50 depend on independent Claims 21 and 28, new Claims 41-50 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 21 and 28.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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